

## Colossians 3:1–5

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### **3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Messiah, keep seeking the things above, where Messiah is, seated at the right hand of God.**

- Colossians 3 begins a new section in the Epistle, with Chapters 1 & 2 centering upon doctrine, i.e., teaching the fundamental truths of Yeshua and the redemption He has made for His people.

- Colossians 3 & 4 then go on to show how these truths are to be lived out by all who have come to faith in Yeshua.

- In the Greek, εἰ (ei), “if” followed by an indicative verb, means “since.” Paul is addressing those who have confessed Yeshua by faith and stating as fact that they have been raised up with Messiah.

- What does it mean to be “raised up with Messiah”? It means that inevitably the manner of living has changed, and that the believer will progress more and more in putting to death the desires of the sinful nature and in living more and more in the ways of righteousness.

- The true nature of one who is born again is that they long to please God in all things. To do so one must know what pleases God and commits oneself to live accordingly. Persevering, “keeping on, keeping on,” is inevitably the primary mark of a believer.

- where Messiah is” = Always living with the reality that Yeshua is with me (“Matt 28:20)

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Math 28:19-20)

- “seated” – knowing that the price of our redemption has been paid and we are secure! [“seated” is used to teach that the work of redemption has ultimately been accomplished by Yeshua for all who are His.

- “at the right hand of God” – The place of power and authority. “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (Matt 28:18). We are eternally empowered to overcome sin through the eternal and infinite value of Yeshua’s work for all who are His.

### **3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.**

- “Set your mind” (φρονεῖτε) is a present imperative: “keep on setting your mind” To “set one’s mind” refers to one’s entire life for “as a person thinks within himself, so is he.”
- to guard ourselves from a worldly mindset. How do we do this?
- to make the things of the Lord be our constant focus by regularly feeding on His word.
- to refuse to allow the ungodly things of this world to dominate our time & energy.
- to regularly commune with God through prayer.
- to value regular fellowship with other believers.

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And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Heb 10:24–25)

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- “things above” – that which is of God and honors Him.
- “things that are on earth” – all that is unrighteous and contrary to the holiness of God.
- This does not mean to “escape from society,” to isolate oneself away from society.
- To be witnesses for Yeshua we must be “in the world but not conformed to the world.” (Rom 12:2)

### **3:3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Messiah in God.**

- The true believer has had a radical life-change:
- The Spirit of God dwells within every believer.
- Loving God by seeking to please Him in all things is the believer’s ultimate goal.
- Instead of being dominated by the sinful nature, the believer is enabled to more and more put to death the deeds of the flesh and to live in line with the leading of the Spirit.
- “hidden” means “unknown to the world.”
- Messiah is “the storehouse” of God’s wisdom and power, and thus the believer who is “hidden with Messiah” has been given access to spiritual power and strength to which the unbeliever has no access.
- “Messiah in God” (σὺν τῷ Χριστῷ ἐν τῷ θεῷ), “in Messiah Who is Himself God.”

**3:4 When Messiah who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.**

- Is Messiah the very source of my life? Is Messiah the One I live to please & honor?
- Do I live with the expectation that He is coming again?
- Is His promise to come again a motivating and strengthening factor in my life to be living as a witness for Him?

**3:5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.**

• **“consider...as dead”**

The Greek has an imperative/command: (Νεκρώσατε–aorist imperative) = “Put to death the sinful desires of the flesh and don’t allow it to dominate your life again.”

Be done with encouraging the sinful nature in any way. Don’t give into the desires of the flesh.

• **“immorality” – πορνεία, porneia – sexual immorality, “the lust of the eyes” (1Jn 2:6)**

The eyes are the channel of a person’s soul. When a person is enticed by lust, their eyes serve as instruments that cause them to transgress and sin.

- What I spend time watching or reading.
- The music I listen to: do the lyrics foster that which is immoral?
- How I dress: do I dress immodestly because I want to fit in with the modern fashions?
- The enemy wants to use every possible means to tarnish and diminish a believer’s testimony by attracting them to things immoral and impure.

• **“impurity” – that which leads to sin**

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- **“passion” – What are my strongest desires in life?**
- In what do I spend most of my free time?
- What are my favorite kinds of entertainment?
- What are my primary goals in life?
  
- **“evil desire” – relates to the sinful nature and its constant desire to engage in that which is sinful.**
- How successful am I in saying “no” to sinful desires and “yes” to what I know is right?
- Do I admit my areas of weakness and am I growing stronger in these areas of life to say “no” to the flesh and “yes” to the Spirit?
  
- **“Greed” is covetousness, that is, not being satisfied and thankful for what God has supplied but doing what ever is necessary to get more.**
- being envious of what others have, whether of material possessions, prestige, power, etc.
- willing to do whatever is necessary to get what I want, even if such doing is sinful.
  
- **Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.**
- immorality, impurity, wrong passions, evil desires, and greed, are all a form of idolatry. Idolatry is:
  - that which is given priority over obeying God.
  - that to which one gives their life’s time and energy as a priority rather than giving one’s life to serve and honor God.
  - anything that puts obeying God and living as a testimony of from Him as a second priority, is a form of idolatry, i.e., giving one’s desires and life-goals as for oneself and thus more important than obeying God which means living to honor Him in all aspects of life.